(b) Steps taken to promote and strengthen the garment sector in the country including Tamil Nadu cover de-reservation of the sector, duty imposition on import of garments to protect domestic units, introduction of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for modernization, as well as introduction of training programmes for enhancement of skill requirements in designing, merchandise and marketing.

(c) Yes, Sir. As per the 1995-96 Census the monthly handloom cloth production in Tamil Nadu was 44040265 linear Mts and the monthly average earnings of a weaver was Rs. 1461/-.

(d) The schemes to augment production and improve the living standards of weavers including those in Tamil Nadu *inter-alia*, are Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Thrift Fund Scheme, Health Package Scheme and Insurance Scheme.

Handicraft units in Andhra Pradesh

430. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) the number of handicraft units presently functioning in different parts of Andhra Pradesh and number of workers/artisans engaged therein; and

(b) the schemes/incentives being given by Government for the promotion and development of handicrafts in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) As per the last census report on handicrafts artisans conducted by NCEAR in 1995-96, the number of handicraft units functioning in Andhra Prasesh is estimated to be 76283, employing nearly 1,21,880 artisans.

(b) The schemes/incentives being provided by the Government for promotion and development of handicrafts in the country including in the State of Andhra Pradesh include:- training for skill upgradation;

marketing, marketing development support; identification of important craft clusters and their sustainable development; revival of languishing crafts; design and technology upgradation; setting up of Craft Development Centre and Common Facility Centre; setting up of worksheds and worksheds-cum-housing and conferring of National Award and National Merit Certificates to outstanding craftpersons.

Comprehensive plan for handloom, powerloom and handicrafts sectors in the country

431. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive plan for handloom, powerloom and handicraft sectors in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds provided during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the details of progress and achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) The National Textile Policy—2000 announced by the Government, laid down the broad objectives and thrust areas for development of Indian textiles including handlooms, powerlooms and handicrafts. The important thrust areas include technology upgradation, enhancement of productivity, quality consciousness, strengthening of raw material base, product diversification, increase in exports and employment generation.

(c) and (d) State-wise allocations are not made in the Ministry's budget for implementation of various schemes/programmes. However,